

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 CU-04 NIC-01 SAJ-01 SY-10

USSS-00 A-01 PER-05 DRC-01 OMB-01 /149 W

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R 110910Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1533

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL SEOUL 8335

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJ: STUDENT ACTIVITY

REF: SEOUL 8255

1. SPORADIC CAMPUS PROTEST HAS CONTINUED FOLLOWING RELEASE OF ARRESTED STUDENTS DEC 7 (REFTEL). LEADERS OF SNU STUDENT ASSOCIATION MET ON CAMPUS DEC 8 TO WELCOME RELEASED STUDENTS. GROUP PLEDGED TO CONTINUE FIGHT AGAINST "INCONSISTENCIES" IN DEMOCRACY. RADIO EVENING DEC 8 REPORTED THAT RESOLUTION INCLUDED ABOLISHING YUSHIN CONSTITUTION AND CALL FOR NATIONAL REFERENDUM. LATTER DEMANDS WERE NOT REPORTED BY OTHER MEDIA.

2. PRESS REPORTS THAT KYONGPUK UNIVERSITY GENERAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION MET DEC 10, ALSO TO WELCOME RELEASED STUDENTS, AND DEMANDED ESTABLISHMENT REAL DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, FREEDOM ON CAMPUS, AND FREEDOM OF PRESS. PRESS ALSO REPORTS DEC 10 RALLY BY 80 STUDENTS OF SNU'S COLLEGE OF COMMERCE WHO DEMANDED CHANGE IN REGULATIONS TO PERMIT CAMPUS FREEDOM AND CONSIDERATION OF STUDENT VIEWS IN SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION.

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3. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENTS, EDUCATION MINISTER MIN KWAN-SHIK MET

DEC 10 WITH PRESIDENTS OF LEADING PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES. HIM QUOTED AS SAYING MEETING WAS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON STUDENT PROBLEMS IN AFTERMATH RECENT CAMPUS UNREST. THE PRIME MINISTER IS SCHEDULED TO MEET DEC 13 WITH PRESIDENTS OF ROK UNIVERSITIES.

4. EDUCATION MINISTER IN RADIO BROADCAST DEC 7 PROMISED TO WORK FOR STUDENT FREEDOM BUT QUALIFIED NEW POLICY REMARKS BY STATING THAT NORTH KOREAN THREAT NECESSITATES SOME LIMITATIONS. HE SAID HE WOULD LEAVE CAMPUS ADMINISTRATION TO UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES.

5. COMMENT: RECENTLY SEVERAL PRO-GOVERNMENT SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IN SPITE RECENT POLICY OF MODERATION STUDENTS AND CHRISTIAN LEADERS HAVE CONTINUED TO ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT. EMERGING DEMANDS FOR CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION ARE (CORRECTLY) INTERPRETED AS CLEAR ATTACKS ON THE STRUCTURE ON GOVERNMENT AND PRESIDENT PARK. GOVERNMENT SOURCES INDICATE THAT DEMANDS TO AMEND YUSHIN CONSTITUTION AND FOR REFERENDUM OR NEW ELECTIONS ARE COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE. THEY EXPRESS CONCERN THAT PRESIDENT PARK IF PUSHED TOO STRONGLY MAY REACT TO SUCH DEMANDS BY EXTERME MEASURES OF HIS OWN. THE CLEAR IMPLICATION IS THAT IF STUDENTS AND OTHERS TAKE UNDUE ADVANTAGE OF NEW POLICY OF CONTROLLED MODERATION THE PRESIDENT WILL NOT HESITATE TO TIGHTEN CONTROLS.

6. CURRENT SPATE OF PROTEST ACTIONS IS EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING ORGANIZED STUDENT ACTIVISM EVEN THOUGH SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED.

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## Message Attributes

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